

Dear Dave,

11/26/92

I've been sending you the Post's stories on the Bush administration's attempted ^{mis-}use of confidential information on Clinton in the passport files on the possibility these stories report what you'd not seen and in the belief that there is much more involved than has been admitted.

Today's story, buried deeply inside the main news section, of three sections the second, ~~third~~, on page 45 of 60, represents an editorial judgement I question and reports what I regard as an effort to control a serious matter that involves more serious criminal offenses than violation of the Privacy Act. *(Story worth more attention)*

Within the Justice Department this is being handled by what is not/called The Office of Professional Integrity, formerly The Office of Professional Responsibility. I have had experiences with it and watched it and have for years referred to it as the administration's official whitewashing service. Based on its long and disgusting record of official whitewashing. *(at best only in part)*

This story contains no reference, for example, to the Hatch Act. It would, clearly, have been violated if there had been any political interest in the search of Clinton's passport records when in fact there can have been no other interest.

It is probable, I believe, that there are those inside the administration who know what has not come to light about this, and that there is such knowledge can account for the matter being assigned to the OPI rather than ^{The Criminal Division} for criminal investigation.

It may be that more could have been reported in the Post and it chose not to do that.

I think that burying this story represents a Post decision to downplay it and that makes me wonder what might be reported elsewhere that is not in the Post's story.

Few as the details are it is clear that initially this business was lied about by the administration and that since then all official efforts have been to downplay the whole matter and its seriousness in legal rather than merely political terms.

OPI can handle the thing administratively, which can be much safer for the Bushniks.

In doing this it can stall indefinitely. That it may not would be to control the whole thing before the Clinton DJ can look into it. Control can consist of not getting all the information, a standard OPR ploy, or keeping others from involvement on the ground that OPI is investigating, ~~the investigation~~ and end up stuff in a unit or two.

Superficially the administration may feel that it must do whatever it does before that can be given to a ~~grand~~ jury to investigate by the Clinton administration or to a different Justice component. Under the Clinton administration exposure of misdeeds would require correcting the record to begin with.

If there is a criminal offense I doubt the Clinton administration will want to begin with it or with taking time for it. But if there is a criminal offense the Bush administration will not want to prosecute - itself. So it has the need to control and to cover up to the degree now possible. *Best, Harry*